WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A computer-implemented method for generating a risk assessment of a builder, the method comprising:

providing a database that comprises a master set of questions and inspection checkpoints for use in assessing builder risk;

obtaining input about a builder and about projects associated with the builder;

using the input about the builder and the projects to select from the database a subset of questions to present to the builder, and a subset of inspection checkpoints to use to inspect one or more construction projects of the builder;

receiving responses to the subsets of questions from the builder, and storing said responses within computer storage;

recording within computer storage results of the subset of inspection checkpoints as applied to one or more construction projects of the builder; and

using at least the responses to the subsets of questions and the results of the subset of inspection checkpoints to generate a risk assessment score of the builder.

2.   The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the input about the projects comprises information about a geographical location of the projects.

3.   The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the input about the projects comprises information about construction methods and materials planned for the projects.

4.   The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, wherein the input about the projects comprises information regarding at least one of the set consisting of: types of the projects, sizes of the projects, geographical location of the projects, construction methods and materials planned for the projects, and special features of the projects.

5.   The computer-implemented method of Claim 1, further comprising reporting the builder's risk assessment score.

6.   The computer-implemented method of Claim 5, wherein using the input to select a subset of questions and inspection checkpoints comprises selecting questions and inspection checkpoints for assessing component factors, the component factors comprising at least one of the set consisting of: design issues, communications systems, builder knowledge,

construction practices, customer service, data tracking, prior and active claims, legal contracts and insurance, and safety programs.

7.   The computer-implemented method of Claim 6, wherein reporting the builder's risk assessment score further comprises reporting scores for the component factors that influence the builder risk assessment.

8.   The computer-implemented method of Claim 6, further comprising calculating the risk assessment score as a weighted combination of the scores for the component factors.

9.   A system for determining a builder risk assessment score, comprising:

a user interface for user entry of data regarding a builder and building projects associated with the builder;

a database comprising a master set of questions and inspection checkpoints for conducting builder risk assessments;

a first component configured to receive from the user interface the data regarding the builder and the builder's projects and to select from the database a subset of questions to present to the builder, and a subset of inspection checkpoints to use to inspect construction the builder; and

a second component that calculates a risk assessment score for the builder based at least in part on builder responses to the subset of questions and results of the subset of inspection checkpoints.

10.   The system of Claim 9, wherein the database further comprises at least one of the set consisting of: information about proper construction practices associated with the checkpoints, historical information about costs associated with repairing construction faults, associated with the checkpoints, information about a statistical frequency of liability claims regarding the checkpoints; and a measure of relevance of proper construction technique for the checkpoints to a risk assessment for projects of various types and various geographical locations.

11.   The system of Claim 9, wherein the database further comprises questions for assessing the builder regarding at least one of the set consisting of: design issues, communications systems, builder knowledge, customer service, data tracking practices, prior

and active claims history, insurance and other legal documents, and safety programs implemented.

12. The system of Claim 9, wherein the first component is further configured to select the subset of questions and inspection checkpoints based at least in part on the input data.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein the first component is further configured to select the subset of questions and inspection checkpoints based at least in part on a set of customization rules.

14. A method for performing a builder assessment, comprising:

receiving information about a builder and about projects associated with the builder;

obtaining additional information about the builder and about at least one of the builder's projects, wherein the additional information comprises results from a physical inspection of the builder's project and information about design aspects of the project and the builder's communications and customer service systems; and

determining a builder assessment score, based at least in part on the obtained information.

15. The method of Claim 14, further comprising determining for the builder at least one of the set consisting of: a risk assessment grade, a risk assessment category, and a risk assessment tier-level.

16. The method of Claim 14, wherein determining a builder assessment score comprises assigning a numeric score to a plurality of factors associated with builder quality.

17. The method of Claim 14, further comprising obtaining information from more than one project of the builder to determine a sample of the builder's operations.